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"DROWN!" ROARD THE RAPIDS. "DROWN
IN MY CHURNING WATERS — BE TORN TO RIBBONS BY MY JAGGED ROCKS...!" BUT THE DURANGO KID, CLEAVING AIR IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO THWART EVIL, IGNORED

THE ROAR OF THE RAPIDS!





Charles Starrett as THE DURANGO KID, December, 1954. Volume 1, Number 33. Published monthly by Magazine Enterprises, 11 Park Place. New York 7, N. Y. Publication and Subscription Offices, 420 DeSoto Avanue, St. Louis 7, Mo. Executive, Editorial and Subscription Office, 11 Park Place, New York 7, N. Y. Publisher, Vincent Sullivan; Editor, Raymond C. Krank. Entered as second-class matter Dec. 19, 1949 as the Post Office at New York, N. Y. Subscription in the U.S.A., \$1.50 for 12 issues; other countries, \$2.00. Entire contants copyrighted 1954 by Magazine Enterprises. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions, other than the title character appearing in this magazine and these of any living or dead person or institution is forended and any such similarity is purely coincidental, Printed in U.S.A.





AT THAT MOMENT, A GRIM BLACK-MASKED FIGURE PLUMMETS DOWN OUT OF THE NIGHT!









I KNEW YOU FOR A STUBBORN STAND OLD CUSS, MATT HAYCOX-BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE BACK. DURANGO! THIS LOCO! WHY, IF YOU AN' DON'T HADN'T SLUGGED ME, I'D TRY SOFT HAVE HOGTIED THOSE TALKIN'ME! BADHATS - AND YOUR WHEN A MAN'S TROUBLES WOULD HAVE CARRYIN' GOLD BEEN OVER! HIS TROUBLES







MEEK HAS PASSED...

BE DURNED IF I KNOW HOW WE LOST THUH OLE MAN'S TRAIL, BUT HE HAS TO BE SOMEWHAR AROUND LOOK!





TO, WE'LL KILL

GOLD...? WHUT'RE YUH TALKIN' MY UNCLE'S
ABOUT? ONLY GOLD YUH'LL A TRAPPERFIND ON ME IS THESE-HERE THERE'S NO
FALSE TEETH OF MINE! GOLD IN THESE





OUTTA THUH GOLD, OLE MAN! WE



















































MANY A BARREL-CHESTED DESPERADO HAS BUCKLED UNDER THE FLAILING FISTS OF THE DURANGO KID! BUT COULD IT BE THIS TIME DURANGO'S BITING OFF MORE THAN HE CAN CHEW! BECAUSE THIS GALOOT FROM THE GRAVE WHO LAUGHS AT FLYING LEAD, IS

THE PHANTOM BADHAT!











THE PHANTOM BADHAT RIDES OUT AGAIN AND AGAIN-ALWAYS TRAILING HOLLOW LAUGHTER AND DESTRUCTION AND DEATH BEHIND HIM! HE KEEPS PULLING JOB AFTER

JOB ...









MULEY PIKE--DURANGO'S SIDE-KICK-CLEARS TOWN FAST AS HE CAN!

DURANGO'S BEEN BUSY ACROS'S THUH BORDER CHASIN' AFTER RUSTLERS -BUT WHEN I TELL HIM WHUT'S GOIN' ON BACK HERE, HE'LL COME BACK PRONTO!









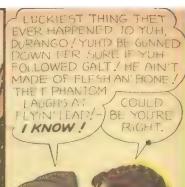
THE PHANTOM BADHAT SLASHES AT THE LASSO WITH A SHARP KNIFE!





















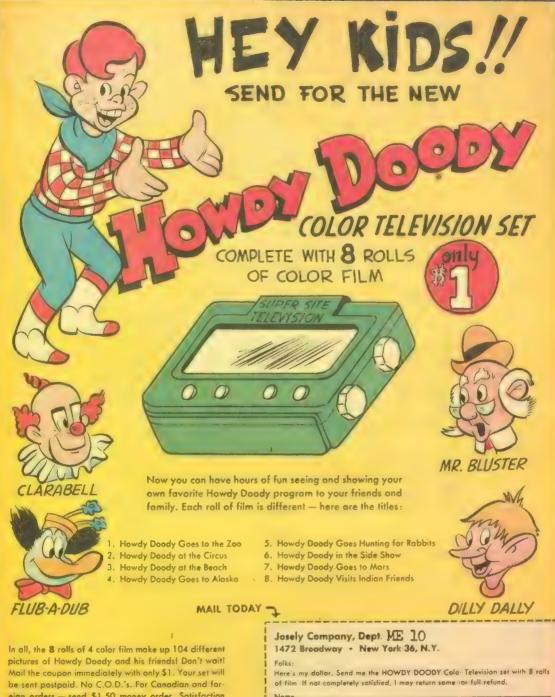












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THE GIGANTIC WRESTLER WAS AS CRUEL AS HE WAS POWERFUL! AND HE WAS OUT TO GET THE DURANGO KID AT THE VERY TIME THAT DURANGO'S ARM WAS IN A SLING! DURANGO NEVER KNEW GREATER PERIL THAN WHEN THE BESTIAL ROAR BEHIND HIM ANNOUNCED THE

CHALLENGE OF THE CRUSHER













THE NEXT DAY, DURANGO SHOWS UPIN LITTLE BEND AS STEVE BRAND, FIGURING THAT IF KRAGG HEARS A MARSHAL'S IN TOWN, HE WON'T MAKE A MOVE...

STEVE BRAND ! ARE HEY, LOOK .. A WE GLAD TO SEE YOU! TRAVELLIN' SHOW!



THET'S WHY WE'RE SO GLAD TO SEE YUH, MARSHAL! WE'RE COUNTIN'ON YOU TO WIN THET \$5,000 FER



STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS! HERE HE 15-THE CRUSHER. YOU ALL CAN READ, SO YOU ALL KNOW WHAT HIS CHALLENGE IS ! ALL IT TAKES IS FIVE MINUTES... FIVE SHORT MINUTES IN THE RING WITH THE CRUSHER — AND THE TOWN WILL BE RICHER BY \$5000! LET'S GO... LET'S GO! WHO'S GOING TO BE THE FIRST BRAVE

MAN ... \$5,000

THEY'RE ALL LOOKING AT STEVE-HE'S KNOWN ALL OVER THE WEST AS A FIGHTING MAN! THEY EXPECT HIM TO TAKE ON THE CRUSHER



LEVERYBODY GASPS WHEN STEVE BRAND TURNS HEE AND STRIDES AWAY



ALL EYES ARE STILL RIVETED ON THE FEDERAL MARSHAL AS HIS SIDE-KICK OVERTAKES HIM! THE TOWNSFOLK FLINCH WHEN THEY HEAR MULEY CALL STEVE YELLOW!



THERE IS A GASP OF DISBELIEF WHEN THE OLD FRIENDS DRAW!



BRAND'S HIT IN THUH SHOULDER :



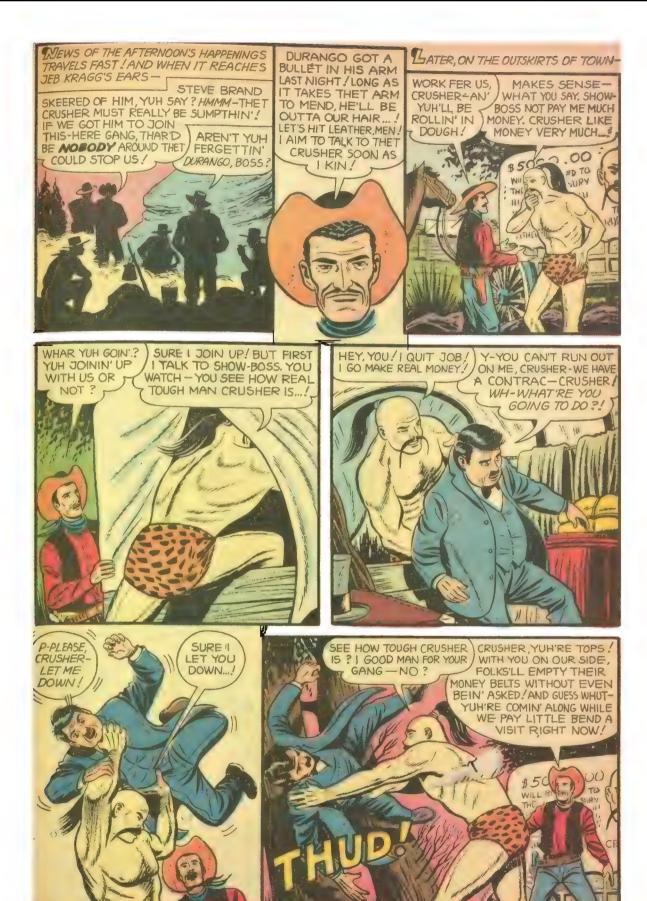
BUT BEFORE ANYBODY CAN RUSH FORWARD TO HELP THE MARSHAL -



PALL IS CAST OVER TOWNSFOLK BY THE MYSTERIOUS QUARREL AND THEIR GLOOM DEEPENS WHEN THREE LOCAL MEN CLIMB INTO THE RING TO TRY FOR THE \$5,000. ONLY TO BE PINNED ONE AFTER THE OTHER IN A

FEW SHORT SECONDS BY









JUST THEN, FROM A SIDE ALLEY-



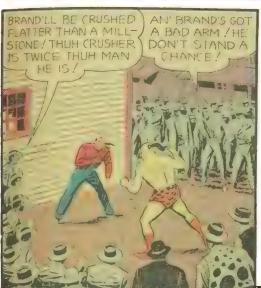




















THE DURANGO KID'S WESTERN DICTIONARY

THIS new feature is a western dictionary, to explain for our readers the meaning of the western names and terms they may come across in these pages. We will explain a little about Indians and pioneers, gunfighters and cowboys, horses and cattle. If you like the idea, why not write in and tell us so?

VIGILANTES The vigilantes were groups of plain, ordinary citizens, enraged into banding together to fight the hordes of gunfighters and criminals who infested their towns and cities in the early days of the Old West. When these men discovered that the law officers hired to protect their persons and property were helpless, they organized to protect themselves.

Perhaps the most famous of all vigilante bands were the vigilantes of San Francisco in 1851. They grew out of the gold miners' courts, which dealt swiftly and justly to men convicted of crimes in the gold-panning fields. When a band of cutthroats named "the Hounds" began to terrorize San Francisco, the people went after them. They used a boat in the harbor for their first jail.

Other vigilante bands were formed in Texas, Colorado, Montana, the Dakota and Indian Territories.

WATERHOLE A waterhole is a tiny pool of drinkable water fed from subterranean, or, underground, springs. Usually isolated, the waterhole is part and parcel of western story. Indians knew the location of the waterholes in the desert country, and usually poisoned them during the sporadic wars with the "PONY SOLDIERS" (U. S. cavalry). Sometimes such a waterhole is found on rock, in a smooth, saucer-like depression. This is called a SINK.

Without these waterholes, crossing the hot, barren sweeps of sand known as the American deserts would have been an impossible task.

YELLOWSTONE Yellowstone is the name of a river and of the national park situated in the state of Wyoming. A weird and lovely land of geysers and strange rock formations, it was considered accursed by the Indians.

of the mountain men, explored some of the Yellowstone formations, and spread tales of petrified elk and rabbits. Mud.volcanoes and a waterfall twice as high as Niagara Falls are also part of this wonderland.

In 1870, the government commissioned a group of scientists to explore Yellowstone. In 1872, thanks to Judge Cornelius Hedges, who fought private interests that wanted to divide up Yellowstone among themselves, it became a national park. It is the *largest* national park in America.

Such geysers as Castle, Old Faithful and the Giant, attract thousands of tourists today. There are bears and moose still roaming the more than three thousand acres, protected by government sanction.

The hot springs bubbling from the gravelly ground of the park can be cooked over just by placing a pan above them and dropping an egg or a bit of meat into the pan. Up until 1917, stage-coaches used to take visitors through the park, and there is an old-style stagecoach where people may snap their own pictures against the background of its big wheels and front and rear boots.

The deep gorges of the grand canyon of the Yellowstone add a spectacular note to these other natural wonders. The soft volcanic rock is carved into fantastic shapes and dyed by sun and wind and rain into all the colors of the rainbow.

More than 100,000,000 years ago, all this wonderland lay at the bottom of a mighty ocean!

ADOBE Adobe is the term given in the southwest to a form of clay used to build the thick walls of the houses. It is a Spanish word, and denotes the sundried brick and the clay from which the brick is made. These thick walls keep the houses comparatively cool in the terrific heat of a southwest summer, and warm in the wintertime.

In the days before the white man came, the AZTECS and INCAS used adobe for their great buildings. The Spanish adopted their clay type of building and adorned their own houses in such a manner.

From Mexico and Peru, this habit trailed northward into Texas, New Mexico and Arizona during the time these states were occupied by, and belonged to, the Spaniards. When the Americans received this land from the Mexicans after the War of 1848-1849, they also received the adobe houses and the method of making adobe.

The word, 'dobe, is a slang term

for adobe.

BIT There were many kinds of bits used by the cowboys in the days of the old west. The bit itself is that metal part of the bridle that fits into the horse's mouth. To the bit are attached the headstall and the reins. The bar of the bit fits into the mouth of the horse, and the two side pieces (also known as "cheeks") are generally metal rings.

Some of these cheeks are highly ornate, fitted with copper and silver decorations. The various styles of such fancy bits are called Santa Barbara or Las Cruces, according to the fashioning of their spades and

cheeks.

The parts of one of these fancy bits include the mouthbar, the spade, sidearms and bar-chains. The cricket is a little ball of metal that the horse can roll on its tongue. It gives off a pleasing sound to horse and rider both.

The hackamore bit, made usually of rope or leather, has no bar, but fits snugly to

the jaw instead.

CAVVY This is a cowboy term for the REMUDA, or the group of horses connected with a trail drive or cowboys out on roundup. Inasmuch as the remuda is a vital part of life on the range, men are assigned to care for these horses. Such men are known as horse-wranglers. It is sometimes their duty also to "break" wild horses or broncs so that they will be fit to ride by the cowboys when they need fresh remounts.

A rope corral is made at night, into which the cavvy is driven while on trail herd drive. Mesquite posts are driven into the ground and ropes or lasso stretched from post to post. When a rider needs a new mount he takes his lariat and chooses one, roping and saddling him. Sometimes the

horse-wrangler has this duty.

On roundup, only the best cow ponies are used in the cavvy, for cutting out rambunctious steers and calves is a job that requires more than just plain speed. The cow pony must know when to run, how to angle its run so that it can cut off the run of the steer or calf, and when to stop and let the rider make the dally of the rope about the saddlehorn, so that the fallen steer can be held.

On the trail drive, such "cow-

wise" ponies are not necessary.

wore.

DERRINGER The derringer is usually associated with the western gambler, for it was a small revolver that could be hidden in a holster strapped to the ribs and under the shoulder, and was hidden by the long frock coats that gambling gentry

derringers had double barrels and a short. curved butt. The barrels of these palm guns ranged anywhere from one to five inches in length. Since they were used at such short range (usually across a poker table when a man's honesty was questioned), short barrels

arms companies, such as Sharps, Stevens,

Marlin, Cowles and others, it was made in

.22, .30, .32, .41 and .44 calibre. Some of these

Manufactured by many

were practical.

Some derringers came equipped with a sliding knife, like a revolver bayonet. Others had grips fashioned in the form of brass knuckles, so that a man could slug or shoot as he chose.

One of the most popular of the derringers was the .44 caliber gun made by Deringer himself. This was the gun used by the riverboat gamblers on the Mississippi, and by the gentry to protect themselves from the hoodlums that infested the west in the old days.

The gold-miners used the smaller, tiny .41 caliber vest pocket der-

ringer also made by Deringer.

Other derringers that helped make history were the one used by John Wilkes Booth when he shot President Abraham Lincoln, and the double-barreled derringer used in the assassination of President McKinley.

EARP Wyatt Earp was one of the most famous sheriffs and marshals of the old west. It was in Tombstone, Arizona. that Earp achieved his fame. One of his friends and cronies was the famous "DOC" HOLLIDAY, a real dentist whose addiction to gambling and sixguns made him more the deputy he became under Earp than the dentist he had studied to be.

Born in March, 1849 in Illinois, Earp came out west to Dodge City and Omaha when those towns were really tough. He had a varied experience in his early days. not unlike the adventures of WILD BILL HICKOK. Earp was an Indian-fighter, a bull-freight wagonner, a buffalo-hunter and a professional gambler.

In the 1870s, he was a town marshal in Wichita, Kansas. From Wichita he travelled to Dodge City, to become its town marshal from 1877 to 1879. In those days, Dodge City was trail's end for the Texas herd drovers, tough and rangy men, in town for a spree. It was a tough, rough town, and Earp was just as tough and as rough as he had to be.

Then silver was discovered in Tombstone, and Wyatt Earp went southwest. One of his most famous gun battles was the fight between Earp and his deputies against the Clanton gang.

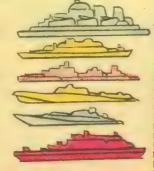


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AND PATRIOT SOLDIERS FROM THE VALLEY READING THE DESPAIRING LETTERS FROM HOME, BEGIN TO THINK GRIMLY OF DESERTION!



AT GENERAL WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS_

I AM SORE AT HEART. I THE WYOMING VALLEY ARE SUFFERING ... BUT BELIEVE ME, I CANNOT SPARE A SINGLE BATTALION SIR THIS

TO PATROL THE BRITISH AGENT FORESTS KNOWN AS THE KING'S SAVAGE-



NO, DAN. YOU AND TIPI HAVE UNDERTAKEN TOO MANY MISSIONS! SO FAR YOU'VE ESCAPED UNSCATHED, BUT TO ASK YOU TO GO INTO THE DARK FORESTS AFTER THAT FIEND. THAT WOULD BE ASKING





50 DAN BRAND AND TIPI START ON THEIR PERILOUS TREK INTO THE DARK FORESTS WHERE EVERY SHADOW MAY SERVE TO CLOAK THE ENEMY ...







THE STILLNESS OF THE FOREST IS SHATTERED BY THE THUD OF SMASHING FISTS, DEEP GROANS, AND LUSTY CRIES OF COMBAT!











TOWNSHEND'S RIGHT - THERE'S NO MONEY ON ME. BUT THERE 15 SOME-THING I CAN OFFER YOU! IF IT'S PEACE IN THIS VALLEY YOU WANT, A CHANCE SOME DAY TO BUILD YOUR HOMES AGAIN AND EARN YOUR LIVELIHOOD BY HONEST MEANS, THEN FOLLOW ME! FOR MY MISSION HERE IS TO CAPTURE JEFFREY MARLOW, THE KING'S SAVAGE!



YOU GO YOUR WAY, DAN
BRAND — WE'LL GO OURS.
WE'VE HAD OUR STOMACHFULL OF FIGHTING FOR
GENERAL
WASHINGTON!

COME, DAN—MORE
WORDS WILL ONLY
LEAD TO BLOWS...

































WITH STRAINING EYES, TIPI AND THE FOREST-RUNNERS WATCH THE TWO SMALL FIGURES STRUGGLING AT THE CLIFF'S EDGE. A MIST HAS RISEN ... SUDDENLY THEY HEAR A PIERCING SCREAM — AND ONE OF THE SMALL FIGURES HURTLES DOWN TO DEATH!





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